

CLAIMS**Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)**

Claim 6 (New) A radio mobile telecommunications system comprises a base transceiver station arranged to manage a plurality of mobile systems within at least one telecommunications cell; the base transceiver station having means to provide an acquisition indication channel by which a first acknowledgement signal is sent to indicate that the strength of the preamble signals of increasing strength sent by a mobile system to the base transceiver station has reached a predetermined acceptable level; characterized in that said first acknowledgement signal is arranged to indicate in addition that the mobile system must not send a message signal but must send a further preamble at the same acceptable strength level; and the base transceiver station having means to send a further acknowledgement signal in response to the further preamble indicating that the mobile system is permitted to send the message signal.

Claim 7 (New) A method of operating a radio base transceiver station comprising:-

- receiving spaced preambles of increasing strength from a mobile station;
- sending a preamble acknowledgement signal on an acquisition indication channel when a preamble reaches an acceptable strength wherein the preamble acknowledgement signal further indicates that the mobile system is not permitted to send its message signal, but must send a further preamble at the same acceptable strength level;
- receiving said further preamble from the mobile station;
- sending a preamble acknowledgement signal of a second type indicating that the mobile station is permitted to send its message signal; and
- receiving the message signal from the mobile station.